

# **State of Alaska FY2002 Governor's Operating Budget**

Department of Health and Social Services  
General Relief Assistance  
Component

## **Component: General Relief Assistance**

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### **Component Mission**

The mission of the Division of Public Assistance is to provide basic living expenses and self-sufficiency services to Alaskans in need.

### **Component Services Provided**

General Relief Assistance is the bottom tier in Alaska's welfare system. It provides a small amount of aid on behalf of persons who are extremely poor and facing an emergency need. To qualify, a person must have an immediate and specific need for food, clothing, shelter, or burial, and lack the financial means to meet the need(s). If eligible, a maximum monthly payment of \$120.00 per person is allowed by State statute for meeting subsistence needs. The General Relief Assistance program pays vendors directly on behalf of eligible persons to ensure that emergency needs for food, clothing, or shelter are met. General Relief Assistance also funds indigent burials. Without this basic state service, the cost of some 350 burials per year would fall on the communities and funeral homes of the State.

### **Component Goals and Strategies**

PROVIDE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES.

- Reimburse vendors for rent, food, clothing, and necessary utilities on behalf of indigent Alaskans experiencing an extreme financial crisis.
- Reimburse vendors for funeral and burial services provided on behalf of indigent deceased persons.

### **Key Component Issues for FY2001 – 2002**

Alaska's General Relief Assistance (GRA) program was developed as a safety net program for very low income individuals who are not eligible for other state or federal assistance. It is used as a last resort program to meet the emergency needs of low income Alaskans who have no other resources available to meet those needs. Currently, about 75 percent of GRA program expenditures are used to pay for funeral and burial expenses of indigent deceased persons. The remainder is used primarily to assist low income individuals and families who are facing eviction.

Individuals and families that access the program continue to represent one of Alaska's most needy and vulnerable populations. They are often marginal members of the community and may have a variety of significant barriers that preclude successful participation in mainstream society. The Division of Public Assistance wishes to maintain funding for the GRA program at existing levels to continue to provide emergency services to individuals and families who lack other resources.

### **Major Component Accomplishments for FY2000**

- Provided GRA program vendor payments for funeral and burial expenses for approximately 350 deceased indigents.
- Prevented the eviction of approximately 100 individual and families each month.

## **Statutory and Regulatory Authority**

AS 47.25.120-300 General Relief Assistance  
7 AAC 47.020-290

**General Relief Assistance  
Component Financial Summary**

*All dollars in thousands*

	<b>FY2000 Actuals</b>	<b>FY2001 Authorized</b>	<b>FY2002 Governor</b>
<b>Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0
73000 Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0
74000 Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0
75000 Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	871.6	829.3	829.3
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>871.6</b>	<b>829.3</b>	<b>829.3</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1004 General Fund Receipts	871.6	829.3	829.3
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>871.6</b>	<b>829.3</b>	<b>829.3</b>

**General Relief Assistance**

**Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2002**

None

**Summary of Component Budget Changes**

**From FY2001 Authorized to FY2002 Governor**

*All dollars in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2001 Authorized</b>	<b>829.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>829.3</b>
<b>FY2002 Governor</b>	<b>829.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>829.3</b>